

MEMOIRS OF  
HELEN HORN STEINMETZ

Written at various times in her later years as she looked back and remembered many facets of her life. Presented as she wrote them, separate entities, with some repetition of events.

Born     Dec. 6, 1892  
Died     Sept. 20, 1985

February 25, 1974

This is Harriet Mosher's sixteenth birthday. It seems impossible that it has been that long since we were in Florida for the second time after a period of being snowbound at the Moshers.

I will write some of my remembrances of my life and that of the Horn family particularly. I seem to know more about my father's family than my mother's.

When my mother and father were married (December 31, 1889), they settled on what was known as the Grimes farm, 3 or 4 miles northwest of Bellefontaine in Harrison township, not far from the Goodin farm which was my mother's home. The Grimes farm was settled by my Grandmother Horn's father, who came from Maryland probably in the early 1800's. The house on this farm was log in the beginning but had been clapboarded and had an addition built. It was built at the end of a long lane...I suppose because of a spring as wells were almost unknown then. Houses were built near a spring which provided good drinking water and cooling for milk and butter.

I remember this house. I was about six or seven when we moved to the Horn farm. I remember when my sister, Clarabelle, died and a friend of my mother's came to call. I remember the rag carpet on the living room floor, also the stairs which climbed to the second story near the fireplace or what had been a fireplace and then boarded up.

On the first day of school which was nearby on the road, a one-story brick building, my father took me by horseback and stayed awhile as I was shy. Afterwards I walked to school with the Bewley and other near-neighbor children.

I also remember one Sunday when my father, mother, I and a baby drove in the rain in a one-seated buggy to my grandmother's (Goodin, no doubt). We had a rain protector of oil cloth in front of us with a place for the lines, a part of the harness which helped drive the horse.

About 1898, my Grandfather Horn died very suddenly, and we moved to the Horn farm near Bellefontaine, Ohio in the Spring where I grew up. I attended school in town by walking a couple of miles to and from school. My Grandmother Horn with Aunt Maggie and Aunt Nellie lived in town on Madriver Street. Both my aunts married soon after they moved to town. First, Aunt Nellie to William Kisee of W. Liberty, and then Aunt Maggie about six months later to John Harner who lived not far from Aunt Nellie. Both lived on farms.

I liked to stay at my Grandmother Horn's overnight, and especially liked using the hose to water the street keeping down the dust. We walked when we wanted to go places in town and in the country if the distance was not too great, or we didn't go.

My Grandmother Horn was a large person. She did not have much grey hair and suffered from rheumatism. She sat a lot and knitted hose and mittens, and did a lot of hand sewing. She hemmed my linen napkins when I married.

When I was older my other Grandmother (Goodin) and Aunt Mollie moved from the Goodin farm to town not very far from Madriver Street on High Street. She was very precise in everything she did (English Quaker ancestors) She, too, was a fine sewer. Grandmother Horn died when Margaret was about 7 and Grandmother Goodin passed away several years later.

I liked going to the Goodin farm when Grandma and Aunt Mollie lived there as the grass was mowed and two rows of pine trees traversed the yard, beginning at the door of the brick house. They, too, had a spring which was used to keep butter and milk cool as well as for drinking. A tenant ran the farm.

One thing I remember about my Grandfather Horn's funeral was that we rode to the cemetery in a hack or carriage drawn by a horse.

The house on the Horn farm was built when my father was a small boy about 1875 after the log house burned to the ground. This house still stands (1974). It was very comfortable, heated by stoves. I with my one sister and four brothers lived there until we were grown.

When my brothers were growing up, my father had a dairy of about 30 cows which were milked by hand. He had a milk route and after the boys went away from home, my father sold the milk to groceries and then to a creamery.

One thing that happened when I was a girl was that on the morning after I graduated from high school, my father delegated me to help deliver milk with my brothers, which made me self-conscious as girls did not do such things then.

I graduated from the eight grade. While in the eight grade, I took an examination called Patterson Exam which enabled me to go to high school without paying tuition. I walked to and from high school

which was on East Columbus Street until a new one was built in the northern part of Bellefontaine which was much closer. It was later converted to a Junior High.

We had no social life in high school, and if we had, my father would not have let me participate. Once when in the eighth grade, he would not let me go on a sleigh ride which the eighth grade had, with the teacher as chaperone. I stayed at home the year after I graduated from high school. During this year, I attended the Grange and some parties. I had a sleigh ride with my brother, Horace. That was the last sleigh ride for me. This was a two-seated sleigh with plenty of robes to keep me warm and bells on the horse. It was a pleasant experience.

I also remember going to the Horn reunion held at the Fair Grounds in August. This was an outing we looked forward to. There were about 100 in attendance. There was always a bountiful table.

I did not have much social life when I was in my teens except that connected with the Lutheran Church in Bellefontaine. I would sometimes attend a young peoples' group of various ages. About my only contact with people was regular attendance at Sunday School and church and gatherings with the Horn family.

My sister, Harriet, and I shared the same bedroom with the "hired girl" when we had one, and the other bedroom upstairs, my four brothers occupied. These two bedrooms were cold in winter as they had no heat except in the girl's room a pipe from the downstairs stove went through the floor and then entered into the chimney, giving off a little heat.

My mother was rather frail most of her life although she did a lot of work raising six children, baking bread at least once a week, canning and drying fruit and later canning vegetables for the winter. Of course, every winter several hogs were butchered. The meat was used as hams, bacon, sausage, lard and pudding meat. The last pieces of trimmings were cooked and then ground and stuffed into casings. The casings were parts of the intestines scraped and washed many times and soaked for an hour or so in salt water. Some of the sausage found its way into these casings also. The lard was rendered, that is, melted and skimmed and put into 25 and 50 lb. cans. This was taken



to town and exchanged for sugar. My mother cooked some of the sausage in the oven until done, then packed it into stone jars and covered it with lard to keep it. It was used in the summer. During the late winter, my father made maple syrup mainly for the family but also for sale. During the early fall, my mother made apple butter. This was made outdoors at a fireplace in a large copper kettle. A day was used for the making. We children helped the day or night before, peeling and coring the apples. On the day of boiling, the cider in the copper kettle had been boiled to a certain consistency, then thickened with the peeled and cored apples and cooked until thick. This was stored in stone jars, one-gallon size, and used during the year. The apple butter was very good used as a spread on bread.

Another day of note was the day the threshers came with a steam engine pulling a separator which separated the wheat and oats from the chaff or outer hulls. The outfit usually came in the evening to be ready to start early the following day. Men from the neighborhood exchanged labor thus helped with the threshing. My mother with some help prepared a bountiful dinner and supper for the men. After the wheat was threshed, it was hauled by wagon to the elevator in Bellefontaine where it was either sold or stored for a later day. Grainaries in the barn held grain which was used for feed. During the year my father would exchange or have flour made from his wheat. Farms then were self-sufficient to a marked degree. Eggs were exchanged at the grocery for staples, also butter, but to get a better price it was sold to private customers. My mother used to tell how she sold the first butter she made after her marriage (1889) for eight cents a pound. We had the necessities of life then and food to eat but not many luxuries. I had one dress for church and one or two for school. The school dresses were worn with an apron over the entire front of the dress while I was in the lower grades.

When a junior in high school, I had typhoid fever for six weeks. My hair was cut and when I returned to school in the Fall, I wore a braid made of hair around my head. I had heard that typhoid fever patients had curly hair after it was cut and new hair came in, but it did not work for me. To reduce my fever, I was wrapped in sheets

wrung out of ice cold water. This seemed to work. Also, my mother made beef tea for nourishment. This was ground beef placed in a Mason jar which was placed in water, was placed over heat and the juices which formed from the meat was called tea. It was very nourishing. I remember the first meal I had when recuperating consisted partly of stewed chicken and fresh tomatoes minus the seeds.

In spite of a large family, we had a parlor bedroom adjacent to the parlor...a room reserved for company and seldom used otherwise. Guests occupied the parlor bedroom. The bed and dresser were of black walnut. The dresser had a long mirror with small drawers on the side, also a place for hats and a marble top under which were two drawers. This was Victorian furniture. There was also a wash stand with marble top, a place underneath for the pot, and a drawer. This suite was sold at an auction in 1943 for a good price. Also, there hung in the parlor a hanging lamp of red glass, which I now believe was cranberry glass. This my mother sold when electricity was installed. However, we did not have running water or an inside toilet.

The day, Aug. 21, 1914, Ferdinand and I were married was very hot. The summer had been very dry so crops were not good. We were married in the Lutheran Church at 3:00 P.M.. Afterwards, there was a light supper at my home. About 25 guests attended. Aunt Maggie made the bride's cake which was very pretty. It was one large layer decorated.

Ferdinand and I left about 9:00 P.M. by train for Indianapolis where we stayed all night in a hotel near the railroad station. The following day we took the train to St. Louis where we visited the Steinmetz family for two weeks. We took a side-propelled boat on the Mississippi from St. Louis to St. Paul which was delightful. The passengers were, for the most part, school teachers. We danced in the evening. The scenery along the Mississippi River was lovely and we had moonlit evenings. The staterooms were small with bunk beds each holding one person. We left St. Louis in the heat and arrived in St. Paul in delightful weather. From St. Paul, we took the train to Truman, Minn. where Ferdinand had a teaching job for three years. In 1918 we moved to St. Paul where the College of Agriculture is located. Ferdinand had an assistantship teaching and taking courses toward advanced degrees. For a time he taught in the Agronomy Dept.

but later he switched to the Plant Physiology Dept. getting his P.H.D. in 1927. After a year of uncertainty, he was elected to be in the Dept. of Botany and Biology at the University of Maine. After a year, the department was reorganized and he became head of the Department of Botany and Entomology which he kept until he retired in 1954. The department was small in 1927 but when he left, it had grown to a department of 7 men including some on half-time basis.

Our life in Orono began in 1927 when we moved to North Main St. where we lived for 11 years. In 1938 we bought a house at 32 College Ave., much like the one on N. Main Street. When we moved to Maine, Margaret was about 9, John was in kindergarten and Harriet was about 2 years old.

We enjoyed the years in Maine, liked the winters as well as the summer months. The children learned to skate and ski. In the summer we drove to Bar Harbor and environs. We especially were fond of the ocean, ocean drive, thunder hole, sandy beach and the rocky coast. We made many good friends. John had two buddies, Don Libby and Laurence Leavitt. I became interested in P.T.A. and community affairs. Was president of the Woman's Club of Orono in 1936 and served on the adviser board for several years. The girls became Girl Scouts and John was active in Boy Scouts and received the highest badge at a ceremony at Camp Roosevelt, the Scout camp.

Two of the people who did a great deal for teenagers and college students when Margaret was in that group were Dr. and Mrs. Charles Sharpe. We have kept in contact with them, and since the Doctor's death with Mrs. Lois Sharpe, now living in Bluffton, Ohio. Another friend is Alice Dickinson in Scottsdale, Arizona, wife of Dr. Charles Dickenson, head of Psychology Department and a good friend of Ferdinands.

Ferdinand was head of the Botany Dept. from 1928 to 1954 when he retired from teaching to Union Springs, N.Y. where we bought a five-room ranch house to be near our daughter, Margaret, who lived nearby on a dairy farm. Her husband, Ralph Mosher, owned and operated a dairy composed of fine Guernsey cows. After farming for a number of years, he went into the real estate business in Auburn with Margaret, a partner in the firm.



Our daughter, Harriet, after college became a Girl Scout field director in Connecticut. In 1948, she married Harold Fray, a Congregational minister. While going to theological school in New York City, they lived on Long Island where Hal served three small Methodist churches until he got his ministerial degree. He became assistant pastor at Utica, N.Y.. Later he was the senior minister. After eight years the family moved to Newton, Mass., and in 1972 to Seattle, Washington. Harriet became ill and died of cancer May 28, 1973. She and Hal had six children.

Margaret graduated from the University of Maine in 1940 in Home Economics, taught school in Presque Isle, Maine; Greenwich, Rhode Island and later took M.S. at Cornell where she was in the Extension Department and was a specialist in the 4H program. She married Ralph Mosher in 1949 and lived on a farm near Union Springs a number of years, became associated with Ralph in the real estate business. They have three children, Ellen who was married on March 30, 1974 to Jim Scheiderich, an engineer with Niagara Mohawk Power Company, Hugh in college and Harriet a junior in high school.



The Horn family which was my father's was German coming from Wittenberg, Germany. Henry Horn settled in Preble County, Ohio after being in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and is buried in Roselawn Cemetery, Lewisburg, Ohio, his gravestone can be seen there. I have a picture of it, having visited the grave in 1963. My grandfather, John Horn, a son of Henry's, lived in Logan County, Ohio near Bellefontaine on a farm. This was a part of a larger one given to veterans at the end of the Revolutionary War because he fought in it. The farm was divided among several sons and my grandfather was the recipient of a sizeable parcel. I was a small girl when he died. My grandmother moved to Bellefontaine and my father moved to the farm and this became my home. I was about 6 years old and I lived here until I married in 1916. I was the oldest of six children, two girls and four boys.

My father was a dairy farmer milking over 30 cows. In those days, milking was done by hand. My father told me he had a dairy to keep the teenage boys busy. My mother liked to milk and she would help with the milking especially in the evening. Either the hired girl or one of the girls would get the supper.

I lived on the farm with my family until a year after I graduated from High School, staying at home the year following high school. It was a rather dull year...there was not much sociability among the farmers who lived so close to town, although I did attend a party or two. Not far away was a small Methodist Church which had ice cream socials which I sometimes attended.

One thing that stays in my mind...When I was 18 years old, the day after graduation from high school, how thoroughly humiliated I felt when my father asked me to accompany my two brothers and help them on the daily milk route which my father had in the nearby town. Girls didn't do that!

I helped with the housework which included washing the glass bottles each day in which the milk was delivered. This was a much improved way of delivering milk. Not much was sold in grocery stores as it is today. Mostly it was delivered from door to door. A pan was set on the door step and milk was poured into it. The surplus milk was sold to make into cheese. My mother made cottage cheese for

a few customers on occasion and it was a very special kind as the curd was blended with real cream. It was not sold in stores as it is today so it was not used as much.

From surplus cream, butter was made for customers. I well remember on one occasion, when butter was made, then worked with a wooden paddle in a wooden bowl. My mother was ill and a hired girl was doing the housework. She came to my mother saying she was not strong enough to work rather soft butter so I fell to and worked it. I was a small girl at that time.

I graduated from high school in 1911 and stayed at home the following year. One of my aunts taught at Charleston Normal School at Charleston, Illinois, now Charleston, Illinois College. My father, because of her teaching there, allowed me to attend two years...graduating with an associate degree. This school was situated several hundred miles from my home and I did not get home until Christmas. I used a train for transportation as automobiles were scarce.

I lived at the Girls' Dormitory which was newly built. I had a single room on the second floor. The first floor was used for office, private parlors, dining room and kitchen. There were about one hundred girls and a few men students who roomed in private homes but had their meals at the dormitory.

In the Fall, soon after school started, the president gave a reception at the dormitory. Of course we attended, dressed in our best clothes.

It seems that I attracted the attention of a certain young man who did not ask for a date until in January. This was for the Saturday night dance held every Saturday night in the gym adjacent to the girls' dorm. The gym was attached to the dorm. Girls outnumbered the men. We also took walks thru the nearby neighborhoods after supper but had to be in the dorm by 7:30 P.M. except on Sunday night, when it was 10:00 P.M.. The men could come in on Saturday and Sunday nights and stay until 10:00 when the lights blinked a signal for the men to leave. The matron of the dorm stood by the door as "Good Nights" were said.

In those days, school was held at the Normal School on Saturday with Monday off. This enabled teachers to pursue their education at the Normal School.

The school has maintained high standards in education and

graduates can graduate from College or University in two additional years. To this day, it is a recognized institution of learning and many alumni are recognized as educators.

My going away to Normal School opened up new horizons. Until this time my associations had been limited to home, school, church and a limited number of country people, as now I met new friends... some more intimate than others.

Men students who boarded in the town were invited to the Saturday evening dances and this provided male escorts to various events.

I made the acquaintance of one such student who became a friend, and eventually became my husband, Ferdinand Steinmetz.

A hot, dry August 2, 1916 was my wedding day. We took the train at Bellefontaine, Ohio to Indianapolis, Indiana where we spent the night. The following day we traveled to St. Louis, Missouri where we spent two weeks visiting my husband's relatives and getting acquainted with new ones.

On a very hot day, we started our honeymoon trip on the Mississippi Queen, a side paddle two-deck boat on the Mississippi River. It was so warm I wondered at the blankets on our bunks but soon found out as we made our way northward. It got cold!

Many teachers from St. Louis were on the boat enjoying the cool days and nights as we did. After spending five days on the boat, we disembarked at St. Paul, Minn. where we took a train to our destination, Truman, Minnesota, a small town on the prairies which had a consolidated school at which my husband taught agriculture and allied subjects.

This was to be my home for three years. At the end of this tenure, my husband took an assistantship in Agronomy at the University of Minnesota. We moved to St. Paul, Minn. where we lived for several additional years. After the degree of Masters which he earned at the end of two years, he went on to acquire a Doctorate Degree in Botany. This was a time when jobs were very scarce and he was without a job for one year.



When I was a girl we celebrated Christmas in the following manner: We did not have a Christmas tree except for one year when my parents entertained my father's family. This was a custom that one member of the family entertained the relatives at dinner on Christmas Day. We did not usually have turkey. Chicken instead, with all the fixings including scalloped oysters. Each family contributed towards the oysters which were cheap in those days...about 40 cents a quart.

On Christmas Eve we usually attended a children's Christmas program at the church with tree. Each child received some kind of a gift. As we did not have a mantel in our house, we hung our stockings each one on a chair where we found our gifts on Christmas morning. My father arose early to fix the fires in our stoves and he usually huffed and puffed, waking us children. One thing we had was hard candy, an orange and some small gifts. Our larger gifts were usually articles of apparel. After I grew older, we often made candy. One year I made boxes of white drawing paper and filled them with homemade candy which I gave to my aunts and grandmothers.

One year stands out in my memory. It was the year I taught school in Hoopeston, Illinois. At Christmas vacation my father met me at the train in a bob sled as there had been a heavy snow. We also attended the Christmas dinner at Aunt Nellie Kisers, going by bob sled about ten miles. It was also the year I received my engagement ring from Ferdinand and, of course, I proudly showed it to the relatives. But we did not get married until about one and a half years later, partly because I was teaching school, and also Ferdinand wanted to teach a year after graduating from the University of Illinois. Married women did not work out of the home. Ferdinand wanted to have some money to set up housekeeping. We had enough money to buy our furniture and paid cash. He was paid \$1200.00 per year and out of that he saved \$600.00 which paid for five rooms of furniture, rugs, etc..

Farms in my younger days were quite self-sufficient so only staples were bought at the grocery store.

My mother made soft soap, light brown in color. In the orchard was a hopper which held wood ashes. Water was poured on these ashes and lye ran out the bottom into crocks or containers. This was combined with fat from hogs and other household grease, cooked in an outdoor fireplace in an iron kettle and became soft soap. This was potent and was used for dishwashing and also laundry. Later she learned to make soap from lye



from a can combined with fat. This congealed and could be cut into cakes and used by the household.

Before my father started the dairy, we made butter and sold it, either to the grocery or to private customers.

To make butter, the cream was skimmed from milk, let sour and then placed into a churn. It was the task of the children to turn the churn until butter separated from the cream. The buttermilk was drawn off, the butter washed in water to extract as much of the buttermilk as possible, then placed into a wooden butter bowl and worked with a wooden paddle, salted and then placed in jars or made into one pound cakes, wrapped in special paper and then sold. My mother also kept chickens which she raised for meat and eggs. Chicken was a delicacy to be eaten on Sunday. We had a few geese, the feathers were plucked and used for pillows.

Every household had feather ticks which were used in the winter to keep us warm. We slept on them instead of having them as blankets.

In the Spring ticks were filled with clean straw from the straw pile and used during the summer as mattresses. We girls had iron bedsteads which were popular at that time.

Our Sunday dresses were usually white with several starched petticoats under to make the skirts stand out. Monday was wash day which was done by hand or by hand-propelled washers. The white clothes were washed, boiled on the stove in a wash boiler, then rinsed at least twice before hanging them to dry on clothes lines. Ironing was a full day's work with starched dresses, petticoats, men's white shirts, etc.. The iron was heated on the wood stove. In the summer, we sometimes used a gasoline stove which did not heat the room so much and produced hotter irons which made the task easier.

We also used kerosene lamps to see and read by. Then came the mantel lamp which gave a whiter and stronger light.

We had a square piano in the parlor as my mother had played when a girl. I remember when we bought this from Grandma Goodin. When it was sold at auction in 1943, it brought \$15.00. It was made of rosewood. I remember my father saying it was the first piano in the area and probably the only one for miles around. He remembered seeing it being delivered, probably by horse and wagon.

In 1913 my parents decided that I might attend a normal school in Charleston in eastern Illinois where my Aunt Olive Horn was on the faculty.

I was very excited about going. While at this school, I lived in a dormitory for girls called Pemberton Hall. It was three stories. The rooms of the girls were on the second and third floors. The rooms were simply furnished with a single bed or cot, a study table, a straight chair, a rocker, a simple rug, chiffonier, and a wash basin with mirror and with running water. There were one or two bathrooms on each floor. I had never used a bathtub or indoor toilet until I went to normal school. The rooms were of two kinds...single and those which had two or three occupants. The dining room of the dorm had round tables with each accommodating about eight people, and a parlor with a couple of smaller rooms occupied a part of the first floor of the dorm.

A few male students who lived or had rooms in the town of Charleston had their meals at Pemberton Hall. This was where I met Ferdinand Steinmet a Senior, who later became my husband. For recreation, we had dances in the gym which was connected with Pemberton Hall, each Saturday night from 7:30 to 10 o'clock. You could bring your date to the parlor for one-half hour after the dance but he had to leave at 10:30. On weekdays we had to be in the hall by 7:30 P.M.. One might stay out later on weekends if one had a good reason. I was a two-year student being a high school graduate. Those from the eight grade and without a high school diploma were four-year students. As we had classes on Saturday, young teachers from the surrounding country side attended.

Ferdinand played football at normal school. He was center and never missed a game or even had "time out". We all attended the local football games and Eastern usually had a winning team.

Going to normal school was inexpensive as there was no tuition. A grad was supposed to teach at least one year in Illinois. There were nominal fees for books, etc.. Board and room at the dorm was \$4.00 per week. The meals were acceptable and food was plentiful. There was a faculty table where the matron and a few faculty ate. When Ferdinand graduated in 1913, his father and mother attended and I first met them. In the Fall, his mother died very suddenly so I never saw her again.

In the Fall of 1913, Ferdinand entered the University of Illinois at Urbana, Ill., where he graduated in 1915 with a B.S. degree. During the summer of 1914 he worked in the harvest fields in Minnesota to earn some money for college. He liked the climate in Minnesota, so after he graduated from the University of Illinois, he got a job in Truman, Minn. where he taught Agriculture and other subjects for three years. We were

married August 2, 1916 and lived in Truman for two years. During this time, Margaret was born at our home on May 25, 1918. In late June or July we moved to St. Paul, Minn. where Ferd had an assistant ship at the College of Agriculture in the Field Crops Department.

We lived in St. Paul from 1918 to 1927. During this time we moved several times. John was born in 1922 and Harriet was born in 1925. We had a house built on Raymond Avenue where we lived several years. In 1926 Ferd was awarded a PHD. There were no jobs in the midwest and he had no teaching job for one year. He worked as a car inspector of wheat, then for the St. Paul Packing Co. from December until July 1.

After working with the livestock for a couple of months, he was assigned to solicit livestock in the Dakotas. This meant buying a car, a Chevrolet sedan. Ferdinand learned to drive on ice and became a good driver. We had sold our house and were living in an acceptable house. While Ferd was on the road, I lived here with the children, Margaret, John & Harriet. Ferdinand was able to get home about once a month. One weekend in the Spring, I planned to meet him and spend the days exploring the Dakotas and western Montana. I thought all was ready with a woman to take care of the children while I was gone when John became ill with a severe sore throat so my best laid plans came to naught. I never did have that weekend trip.

In May 1927, Ferdinand was offered the job in the Botany Department at the University of Maine which he accepted. This relieved us greatly and we began our journey by car to Maine in July. Enroute we visited our relatives in Missouri, Illinois and Ohio. Then on to Maine. We drove via Ithaca so we could see Cornell, then on to Massachusetts, up the coast to Maine, arriving at Orono on August 19, 1927. We were anxious to get settled as we had rented a typical Maine house and our furniture had arrived before we did. We rented this house from a Miss Webster and lived there until 1938 when we bought a similar house a few blocks away where we lived until we retired in 1954.

We enjoyed the years in Maine...liked the winters as well as the other seasons. During the summer, we drove to Bar Harbor and environs where we enjoyed the sandy beach, ocean drive Thunder Hole and the rocky coast. The children learned to skate, ski and toboggan. The family made many good friends. The children attended the public schools and the University of Maine...the two girls graduating. John left while a Junior in College to enter the army in World War II.



I became interested in P.T.A., community affairs, was president of the Woman's Club of Orono in 1936, and served on the advisory board of the Girl Scouts. The girls became Girl Scouts and took active parts in school affairs. John was active in Boy Scouts and received the highest badge, Eagle Scout, at a ceremony at Camp Roosevelt, the Scout camp. He also played basketball, being on the team in High School and in College.

My marriage to Ferdinand H. Steinmetz was a good one. He was always kind and considerate of me, making me very happy. We lived in Truman, Minn., a new, small, western town in the heart of a good farming section. We lived in a small five room house made from a barn. But it was comfortable except during the extreme winter weather. We had one of the few bathrooms in the town and a coal furnace. Of course, the house was not insulated and was hard to heat during the cold windy weather. How the wind did blow! As Ferdinand was the Ag teacher in the consolidated school, we were called on to chaperone the high school parties. One party I remember was a sleigh ride to a student's home several miles from town. The horses which drew the sled did not keep to the road because of drifts of snow. It was a cold ride but we were warmly dressed and had plenty of robes.

Margaret, our first child was born at home on May 25, 1918 with a registered nurse in attendance. As soon as I was able, we moved to Saint Paul where we lived for eleven or twelve years. In 1927 we moved to Maine where we lived 27 years, retiring to Union Springs. Our second child was a boy, John Ferdinand, born in Minneapolis, Minn. on April 3, 1922. He was an average student, liked sports and played basketball both in high school and college. He attended the University of Maine after graduating from high school, until he enlisted in the Army when he was a Junior. While in College he was in the R.O.T.C. program so was able to stay in college during World War II until he was a Junior. He became a second lieutenant and was shipped to Europe in January 1945. He saw some combat but no large battles. On April 2, 1945, he was killed at Leisenwald, Germany by SS troops in a mopping-up engagement. He was buried at Saint Avold, France, and in Nov. 1948, he was buried at Arlington Cemetery. Margaret, Harriet and Hal attended the services there with Ferd and me. His death was a great tragedy. He had a promising future ahead. He was a fine boy, a Boy Scout, with highest award. He made friends easily.

Harriet, our third child was born in Minneapolis on March 16, 1925. She was active in school affairs and when she graduated from high school, her name was inscribed on a plaque as one who had done more for her class



than any of the graduates. At that time, the only girl to gain such distinction. After graduating from college, she became Field Director of Girl Scouts in Bridgeport, Conn..

Margaret attended schools in St. Paul and Orono, then graduated from the University of Maine where she was a very good student. She taught Home Economics in Presque, Maine and E. Greenwich, R.I., received M.S. from Cornell and was employed by N.Y. Extension Service for several years.

At this writing, Feb. 21, 1977, I am 84 years old living alone in a five room house in Union Springs. The years have been good to me. While my health is not the best, I feel quite well and participate in church, club and family activities. Ferdinand died from old age infirmities on May 12, 1971. He became blind from glaucoma and was confined to the house for several years. He was a patient person and never complained about anything. I feel he was one of the best men that ever lived, high moral standards which he observed, kind, did not quarrel and was a loving father and husband. He liked people, especially students and spent much time with them. He was a fine teacher and advised many students. He left his influence on those he knew.

I live alone in the Village of Union Springs with many friends, and not too far away have a loving daughter with a fine family. She gives of her time to take me to Auburn for shopping, takes me to concerts and plays. Her children are very attentive and considerate of me. My friends in the village take me shopping, to church and its activities, and to Senior Citizens once a month. I have some good neighbors who check on me regularly which I appreciate.

Harriet died of cancer on May 2, 1972 in Seattle, Washington. Last May, I flew to Seattle to see my daughter Harriet's family. I found them busy and well adjusted to the step-mother, Marthabelle. Hal was very kind, taking me to places I wished to see. I had two weeks of enjoyment. I saw five of the grandchildren and talked to Susan who lived in Minneapolis. I made the trip very well and enjoyed every minute of it.

This has been a rough winter, snow and cold weather. We will be glad to see Spring once more.

February 1978.

This has been a good year for me. In September, I spent a week in Maine and visited with many friends who seemed pleased to see me.

September 29, 1979.

I continue to live alone in Union Springs and am well enough to enjoy

a number of activities. I still enjoy life, especially my friends. My family becomes more scattered. Hugh and Harriet have graduated from college as have four of the Fray children. I still keep in contact with the families. Am at Margaret's home most Sundays. I feel my health is not quite as good, but on the whole, I am active...attend most events in which I am interested, attend church regularly, plays, concerts, reunions, and family gatherings.

However, inflation makes living harder to keep within one's budget. To date, I have been able to keep my property in good shape. More needs to be done which I hope will be accomplished. Its value has increased greatly. The trees have grown and produce much shade. In 1958, Ferdinand brought seed from redbud trees in Indiana while driving from Illinois. He planted the seed and now we have many full grown trees and many seedlings. I will have to destroy some...more than we can take care of. I am very fond of the trees especially two which I see from my kitchen window. These are beautiful when in bloom, the flower...pink and like that of a pea although much smaller. There are thousands on each tree, a mass of pink flowers.

PHOTO PAGES

Helen Horn  
Age 6 - 1898  
Bellefontaine, Ohio

Helen Horn  
Grammar School Graduation  
1907  
Bellefontaine, Ohio

Helen Horn  
High School Graduation  
1911 - Bellefontaine, Ohio

Helen Horn  
Teacher, Hoopeston, Ill.  
1914-15

-----

Helen H. Steinmetz  
with Margaret, 6 months  
1918 - Truman, Minn.

Four Generations  
Eva Goodin Horn, 2nd  
Helen Horn Steinmetz, 3rd  
Margaret Steinmetz, 4th  
Harriet Goodin, 1st  
1922-23, Bellefontaine, Ohio

Steinmetz Family  
Ferdinand & Helen Horn Steinmetz  
Harriet Ann, Margaret Olive  
and John Ferdinand  
1928 - Orono, Maine

Steinmetz Family  
Harriet, John, Margaret  
Ferdinand & Helen Horn Steinmetz  
1943 - Orono, Maine





